

Guidelines for Parade Floats



Restrictions

Section 1104 of the California Fire Code:

(The Fire Marshal will conduct an inspection prior to the beginning of the parade on the following State Fire Code restrictions)

1104.1 Decorative Material. Decorative material on parade floats shall be noncombustible or flame retardant.

1104.2 Fire Protection. Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum 2-A, 10- B:C rated portable fire extinguisher readily accessible to the operator.

Fire Safety Recommendations

- The fire extinguisher must have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within the last year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has pressure. The extinguisher must be mounted so that it is accessible to the operators. Do not obstruct the extinguisher with decorative material to hide its location.
- Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats. The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices which can ignite the parade float are prohibited.
- Fireworks are not permitted to be discharged.
- No smoking on or near any floats at any time.

Safety Guidelines

Float Vehicles:

- Stabilized props on a float should not exceed 12 feet in height or width. Objects may exceed these requirements only if they can be controlled to allow proper maneuvering with regard to traffic lights, telephone wires, corners and spectators.
- Floats, including tow unit, must not exceed 55 feet in length. The float must be designed to maneuver the several corners along the parade route without delaying the forward motion of the parade or causing potential hazards.
- Float beds must be sturdy and capable of carrying the weight to be imposed.
- Float vehicles should be properly registered and insured.
- The float vehicle must be properly serviced for gasoline, water, oil, brakes, tires and battery prior to entry into the parade. NO extra gasoline, other than in the vehicle's tank, can be carried on the float vehicle.

- Floats must have a minimum of 12 inches ground clearance from the frame. Nothing can drag on the roadway from the float. Proper clearance of materials from around the wheels of the vehicles must be incorporated to avoid any materials being caught in them.
- Decorative material and the parade structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of a motorized float.
- Portable generators must be used carefully. Do not allow the heated exhaust to come in contact with the parade float. Do not overload temporary electrical wiring (an electrician should do all float wiring). Secure extension cords properly; do not let them drag on the ground, contact tires or the drive train. Inspect your electrical appliances before energizing the parade float.
- Portable generators shall be secured to the parade float. Re-fueling of generators will not be permitted.
- Plastic sheeting (visqueen) and plastic tarps will not be permitted.
- Hold a safety meeting with the float staff early. Be prepared, identify the hazards and plan your strategy, should an unexpected event occur. Identify the location of the fire extinguisher and know how to shut off the generator and other electrical equipment. Identify a method to alert the driver to stop the parade float.
- If music is part of your float, this must be included in your event application. The music must maintain a volume that will not interfere with other participating parade until while in the line of march. Applicant is solely responsible for obtaining permission for the use or perform in conjunction with the special event of any material copyrighted under state or federal law. Applicant must ensure that all necessary licenses or other permissions to use or perform copyrighted material, including performance of live or recorded copyrighted music, are obtained in advance of the special event. (If you have submitted a special permit application this will be covered)
- The use of Animals is prohibited, unless approved through the permit process.

Float Drivers:

- Floats must be escorted to and from the parade site. If unescorted, proper running lights should be attached to the float vehicles.
- Drivers must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license and be adequately trained to drive their float. Drivers must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Once the float is in position in the assembly area, a driver and representative must be in attendance at all times in the event there are questions, problems or if the float needs to be moved.
- Be sure that the operator (driver) has a clear field of view. The driver must have a wide field of view to avoid other floats and the crowd. If you have to back-up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.
- Motorcycles – All motorcycle drivers and passengers must possess an "M" class license. All drivers and riders must be wearing a safety helmet approved by the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.

Float Riders:

- **NO ONE** will be permitted to ride on the float as it is being transported to and from the parade site.
- No children under 12 will be permitted to ride on a float without adult supervision.
- All passengers standing or sitting on the float must be wearing a safety belt or have handholds or other support while the float is moving.
- No riders will be allowed to ride on the edge of the float. Any float with riders or articles hanging over the edge, before or during the parade will be subject to removal from the line of march.
- All children under 16 riding a bicycle, must wear proper safety equipment including a helmet at all times.